

## PORTMOAK COMMUNITY WOODLAND Minutes 20.9.11

The Well Inn, Scotlandwell

Present: Alison Bradley, Meriel Young, consultant from the Woodland Trust, Dave and Louise Batchelor, Jeff Gunnell, Stuart Garvie, Dave Carruthers.

Apologies: Karen McDonnell, Elaine Carruthers, Jim Shepherd, James Gilmour.

Woodland Trust update: Meriel Young presented her final design of the Kilmagadwood interpretation board and thanked everyone for their suggestions and feedback, especially David Munro for his expert advice. The board should be in place by the end of the year.

There was extensive discussion of the viewpoint indicator, which Meriel has to sign off by the end of October. It'll cost more for a long, low rectangle at waist-height but everyone felt strongly that we need this design, to accommodate all the information and not block the view. The extra cost will be £252 (inc VAT). Meriel asked if the woodland group could contribute. (**Action Jim /Karen**). Meriel warned against too many viewpoints and too much info. We got it down to 10, by grouping some features together. Jeff supplied a panoramic photo, to help us. The themes will be geological and historical.

We agreed, from east to west, as a working brief: Largo and Berwick Laws and Bass Rock (volcanic plugs); Arthur's Seat (and Edinburgh); Scotlandwell; Pentland Hills, Scottish Gliding Union, Navity and Bernarty; Portmoak Moss; Loch Leven (with St Serf's and Castle islands); Wallace Monument; Ochils and Stirlingshire escarpment. **Action: Dave to research fault line, Louise to research glaciers, Stuart to research volcanoes.** Underlined need for artwork (colouring etc) to make features stand out.

Portmoak Orchard: Jeff said we should organise more pruning. Date to be agreed at next meeting. Jeff read detailed notes from a book on pruning and was asked to summarise the main points. Louise to ask apple tree man (aka Andrew Lear) for further advice on pruning as well as for 50 more trees. Jeff to print map of trees.

Portmoak Moss: Stuart has lost some of his dipwells (and nearly the will to live – after a two and a half hour search). Some marker flags had blown off and attached themselves to other things – making the task of locating wells even harder. He reported that one well had been 'interfered with'. **Action: Stuart to drill more dipwells and buy some decent poles and paint the tops.** Alan and Sally MacDonald will be asked to GPS the pole positions. Louise reported bad flooding at the northern steps – need extra dams or drainage – or both. It'll become very slippery after frost. **Action: James – can you help on this?**

Christmas Trees: Agreed, in principle, to offer Christmas trees (for a donation) in the Moss, as part of a Christmas Fayre. Possible date 19<sup>th</sup> Dec. Stuart has a mulled wine recipe, Dave C. has a generator to keep it warm, and a tarp to shelter us from the rain/snow. Could Elaine and Karen produce and circulate a leaflet about this. Louise could take leaflets to Portmoak Primary, where she's giving a talk on the woods 2<sup>nd</sup> dec'11. Could Shep be Santa? Could we have a workshop on Xmas decorations?

Burns Supper: time to firm up plans for Jan 28th, like the catering. Various suggestions for speakers and musical entertainment. **Action: Dave to speak to Elaine and Karen about caterer.**

AOB: Louise and Jeff have started work on the powerpoint for schools etc – taking photos of colourful mushrooms in the Moss . Dave C reported Elaine had seen a large fox near Moss entrance.

Meeting ended 9.30pm

Date of next meeting: 18<sup>th</sup> Oct 2011, Well Inn, Scotlandwell